



January 25, 2023

F2023-02

TO: All California Fairs and Livestock Youth Programs

SUBJECT: 2023 State Rules for California Fairs

The CDFA Fairs and Expositions Branch is pleased to announce the release of the 2023 State Rules for California Fairs publication. This year, the State Rules publication includes two addendums:

1. Addendum I – Summary of Changes for 2023
2. Addendum II – Exhibit Program Guidelines for Fair Management & Exhibit Staff

Please note the additions made to section VII. Junior Department, beginning on page 12 of the State Rules. CDFA has included new language and terminology regarding market animals and terminal versus non-terminal sales. CDFA encourages that all fairs incorporate similar language into their local rules, entry terms and conditions, and buyer-registration forms. In addition, clearly identify whether the fair's Junior Livestock Auction is a terminal and/or non-terminal sale. This information and terminology may not be clear to all exhibitors, parents, buyers, and other fair and Junior Livestock Auction participants. If your fair is using online entry platforms, CDFA encourages that your fair also incorporates a signature field for the exhibitor and parents to sign acknowledging that they understand this information.

If your fair Junior Livestock Auction is terminal, CDFA recommends that exhibitors and/or parents have declared their intent to sell after their market animal has been judged, but before the sale order is finalized. In addition, if the fair Junior Livestock Auction is terminal, please ensure that all participants are aware that the market animals are being sold for either custom or resale processing only. If your fair Junior Livestock Auction is not terminal, or a combination of terminal and non-terminal sales, please ensure that the information is clearly displayed within the local rules, buyer registration information, and sale order.

Additionally, CDFA has included the list of topics discussed during the annual State Rules Advisory Committee meeting held in October 2022 for your reference. You will



find that most topics were determined to be a local-level issue. CDFA also encourages all the fairs to review this list of topics and incorporate any necessary changes into the fair's local rules, as they may apply.

Finally, CDFA has made the decision to not make any changes to the State Rules Participation Rule #1, under section II. Eligibility, regarding the exhibitor's annual participation in the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. After further research, CDFA has confirmed that while the curriculum is broken down into four levels (Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Young Adult), there are different topics covered within each level and category. The three main categories are food safety, animal well-being, and life skills and there are many sub-topics covered within each category and by age. To view the breakdown, please click [here](#), or visit the YQCA [webpage](#). Please ensure that your fair is requiring that all livestock exhibitors 9 years of age and older are obtaining an annual certification in the YQCA program, or a comparable fair-run program approved by CDFA. Exhibitors not certified are not eligible to participate in a California fair-livestock program. The YQCA program has agreed to provide CDFA with a list of all exhibitors with YQCA certification on a monthly basis. CDFA will share the list of certified exhibitors with the fairs, upon request.

The Official Youth Agreement between CDFA, FFA, 4-H, and the California State Grange, along with the Governor and Secretary's exhibitor handbook welcome letters will be provided once finalized. We hope that you find this information helpful as you plan for the 2023 fair season. CDFA truly appreciates your involvement in our youth programs and wishes you the best of luck this year! For any State Rule-related questions/clarification, variance requests, or protest information please contact Mike Francesconi at mike.francesconi@cdfa.ca.gov or (916) 900-5365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael W. Francesconi". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Francesconi
Branch Chief
Fairs & Expositions Branch

Enclosure

STATE RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

October 19, 2022 – 10:00 am

DETERMINATIONS MADE BY CDFA AND THE STATE RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Exhibitor Checks
 - a. Who has authority to pick them up other than the exhibitor?
 - i. Local level decision – recommended that fair includes decision in their terms and conditions.
 - b. Are thank you cards required?
 - i. Local decision
2. Livestock Weights
 - a. Minimums and Maximums – allowable?
 - i. Minimums and maximums are allowable – dependent on packer/processing facility requirements.
 - b. Is it legal to only pay the price per pound for livestock at a capped weight if they exceed this limit?
 - i. Not a legal question – local decision.
3. YQCA/Training vs selling market animals JLA
 - a. What needs to be done with regards to training fairs of what to do: proactive measures that can be taken; engagement with 4-H, FFA, Grange, etc.
 - i. New language has been added to the CDFA State Rules for California Fairs regarding market animals and terminal sales. It is recommended that fairs incorporate similar language into their local rules, entry terms and conditions, and buyer-registration forms, and clearly identify whether the fair's Junior Livestock Auction is a terminal and/or non-terminal sale. This information and terminology may not be clear to all exhibitors, parents, buyers, and other fair and Junior Livestock Auction participants. CDFA will also meet with 4-H and FFA representatives to discuss the importance of educating our youth about the purpose and intentions of these programs.
 - b. Independent exhibitor requirements
 - i. Requirements for independent exhibitors are determined at the local level. A cross-county agreement should be required, if necessary. All requirements should be added to the local rules.
4. Signatures; Acknowledgement of Local and State Rules on Entry Forms
 - a. Terminal sale vs non-terminal
 - i. Ensure “terminal” sale is defined in local rules and buyers' registration form. New definitions have been added to the 2023 State Rules for California Fairs.

5. YQCA annual requirement. Propose that exhibitors complete the requirement once every two to three years.
 - a. Currently, the annual requirement is too excessive and too repetitive in its educational nature. If the requirement was changed to once every two to three years, a local fair board has the ability to make the rule stricter and change it to an annual basis if they so choose to do so.
 - i. CDFA has made the decision to not make any changes to the State Rules Participation Rule #1, under section II. Eligibility, regarding the exhibitor's annual participation in the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. After further research, CDFA has confirmed that while the curriculum is broken down into four levels (Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Young Adult), there are different topics covered within each level and category. The three main categories are food safety, animal well-being, and life skills and there are many sub-topics covered within each category and by age. To view the breakdown, please click [here](#), or visit the YQCA [webpage](#).
6. Protests
 - a. What is the accurate process for handling protests? At the local level?
 - i. Protests should begin at the local level. In the case that the fair is not enforcing a State Rule, the protest can then be escalated to CDFA.
 - b. Dollar amount for filing an official protest.
 - i. Please see page 10 of the State Rules for protest fee.
7. Late Entries
 - a. Late entries are not a State Rule issue – needs to be addressed in Local Rules
 - i. Local decision
8. Release of Local Rules
 - a. 120 days prior to fair – ownership
 - i. Ownership details for cattle has been added to the Youth Agreement
 - b. Tagging and DNA samples info
 - i. Pre-tagging and entry requirements are decided at the local level. All requirements and entry information must be shared with the exhibitors with ample time prior to entry due date.
9. Exhibitor Eligibility
 - a. Eligibility of a project according to 4-H, FFA, or Grange rules shall be determined by the exhibitor's 4-H Youth Advisor, FFA Advisor, Grange Youth Advisor, Local Leader, or designee.
 - i. This information can be found on page 8, rule 6 under "Participation" in the State Rules. It is recommended that the fairs include eligibility requirements within their local rules.
 - b. Cross-County/State Exhibitors
 - i. Local decision, but cross-county/state agreements with out-of-county/state exhibitors should be in place prior to the fair.

10. Independent Exhibitors

- a. Revise rules pertaining to whom can participate as an Independent Exhibitor
 - i. No changes made to State Rules. Local decision.

11. Exhibitors transferring their projects to different organizations within the year.

- a. For example, they exhibit sheep at a show in May in FFA, and then show sheep in 4-H at another fair in September. Would it be possible for us to make it clearer in the State rules as to what is allowed, and the timeframe that is allowed to transfer projects within the organizations, and how long they will have to wait if they decide to switch back again? Page 13
 - i. While this is covered in the State Rules and Youth Agreement, the fair should also include the transfer eligibility rule within their local rules as it applies to the fair dates.
- b. Add the language to the Youth Agreement and add updated Youth Agreement to the State Rules
 - i. Language regarding ownerships has been updated in the Youth Agreement.

12. Exhibitors may not submit the same entries to two or more fairs that require them to be on exhibit at the same time unless prior written approval has been obtained from both fairs.

- i. Ownership Rule, rule #4, page 7

13. Sheep: Lambs must show lambs teeth

- a. Proposed rule to read: Lambs must show all lambs teeth.
 - i. Changes have been made to the State Rules on page 20 for market lambs and page 21 for market goats.

14. Goat tails – quivering

- i. All exhibitors must abide by the Animal Health Rules on page 22 of the State Rules. The local rules may specify a list of prohibited items/pharmaceuticals.

15. Allowing professional fitters to assist at junior shows

- i. Local decision.